

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

File No. 5393

Special Branch-S.2 Station 1

Date October 30, 1935

Subject (in full) Anti-War Congress - "Foreign Languages Research Society."

Made by D.S. Pitts.

Forwarded by

The Foreign Languages' Research Society, or as it is often known, the Shanghai Foreign Languages College, came into existence about ten weeks ago following, and as the result of, several discussions held by certain prominent Chinese.

The person responsible for the inauguration of this society is a young Chinese male named Newton Mei (梅耐冬), who describes himself as Dean of the Shanghai Foreign Languages College. Mr. Mei is a former student of the Peiping University, through which institution he graduated in 1929. This individual, it is said, together with Wang Chen Ping (Dr. C.T. Wang) (王正廷), ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ma Siang Fah (马相伯), the doyen of Chinese scholars and educationalists, Zou Iung Hsiang (曹雲祥), a former president of the Ching Wah Government University at Peiping, and Liu Hwa Zai (刘华瑞), an ex-Secretary to the Chinese delegation to the League of Nations at Geneva, who returned from Europe during the current year, conceived the idea of establishing throughout China clubs where interested Chinese might study foreign languages and eventually be prepared for entry into foreign business circles in the Far East.

Following this it was decided to establish a school in Shanghai, which, while teaching general subjects, would pay special attention to the study of foreign tongues.

In the early part of August of this year, a small room in the Asia Middle School, which is adjacent to the Japanese Public School, North Szechuen Road, was employed for nearly three weeks by representatives of the Shanghai Foreign Languages College for purposes of advertising their aims and objects in the vernacular press and for enrolling pupils.

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In the latter part of August, premises situated at Nos. 17, 18 and 19 Magnolia Terrace, North Szechuen Road were leased by this institution for the accomodation of the newly established school, which then commenced to function.

At present there are between 170 and 180 Chinese pupils, male and female, attending this college, which in addition to teaching general subjects such as mathematics, Chinese, history and geography, specialises in the study of the English, German, French, Japanese, Russian and Esperanto tongues.

Of the total number of pupils, some 65 or 70 are boarders. The school is divided into three grades - Primary, Middle, and Higher - students paying \$15, \$25 and \$30 per term as fees according to the grade in which they study. In addition, the resident pupils pay \$48 per quarter for board and lodging.

Six scholars are at present studying Russian under the tutorship of one Wang Chi Kyuin, a Chinese male who formerly was a merchant in Harbin, where during a stay of seven years, he learnt Russian. It is said that this person was previously connected with the "World's Students' Club" situated in Chinese Territory and that formerly he was a teacher in a Russian school in the French Concession.

A Portuguese subject named A.M. Ritchie is employed at the college as an overseer or an inspector, his duties consisting of supervising the cleansing of the premises, observing that the scholars pay due attention to all school rules and maxims, and teaching English to the younger and more backward pupils.

Another foreigner, an American lady whose name has not been ascertained, is also employed at this institution to teach English to the senior students. The remainder of the teachers

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are Chinese and they are responsible for the teaching to the students of German, French, Japanese, Esperanto and Russian.

According to information received the authorities of this college, which will later be registered with the Ministry of Education, have a very ambitious programme for its future development. Larger and more commodious premises, including playing grounds, will later be acquired, and it is intended in the near future to employ several foreign teachers to instruct the scholars in the above mentioned languages. Attempts will also be made to interest foreign and Chinese notables in this institution and later to induce them to visit the college for the purpose of addressing the pupils on various subjects.

Enquiries indicate that the management of this college aver that no political ideals at all are entertained and that the students are discouraged from holding such beliefs. This, however, is thought to be the natural outcome of the arrest of the late treasurer of the school - Zung Pih Tien (陳碧天) - on October 18, 1933 by officers of the Shanghai Bureau of Public Safety on a charge of being a member of a communistic organization.

J. A. Jones

D. . . . S.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

File
J. A. Jones
Oct 31 1933

Special Branch,
October 18, 1933.

S.2

Please make inquiries regarding the
"Foreign Languages Research Society" and report.

A Chinese who is alleged to be an official
of this organization was arrested in Magnolia
Terrace on October 18.

D.S. Jones
19/10/33

J. H. Evans
Officer i/c Sp.Br.

D.S. Milton,
Lt. Pitts can undertake
the enquiry for you RB 24/10.